

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND COMMENDING THE FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACHES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the University of Idaho is the state of Idaho's flagship and oldest public university and is the state's land-grant and primary research university; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 1889, Governor Edward Stevenson of the Idaho Territory signed the territorial legislature's Council Bill No. 20, which officially established the University of Idaho as the upcoming state's land-grant institution and nearly four years later, the university opened for classes on October 3, 1892; and

WHEREAS, soon after being named head coach in 2007, Coach Robb Akey was forced to dismiss several players from the University of Idaho team for violations of law or violations of team rules; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 and 2008 Idaho teams were both listed on ESPN's Bottom Ten List, a ranking of the ten worst Division I college football programs in the nation and they were also on the 2009 preseason list, but were removed after opening with a win; and

WHEREAS, the University of Idaho enjoyed a stellar and outstanding football season in 2009, defeating two Mountain West Conference teams in the process, winning the Humanitarian Bowl in thrilling fashion and capping a season few outside Vandal Nation expected as they were picked last in most preseason Western Athletic Conference polls, Idaho's bowl title comes with an 8-5 record in a most outstanding season; and

WHEREAS, the team the University of Idaho beat in the Humanitarian Bowl, Bowling Green State University, had a player, Freddie Barnes, who set a single season NCAA record with 155 pass receptions; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Robb Akey said, "It's due to the hard work of these guys right here... I couldn't be more proud of the group of kids. To take us from where we were -- three wins in two years to get us to this point right now. To be a bowl champion."; and

WHEREAS, with the win, the University of Idaho moves to 2-0 all-time in bowl games, takes its second Humanitarian Bowl title and caps off an 8-5 season that started with predictions of last-place finishes and skepticism about Coach Akey's bold predictions of success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we commend the University of Idaho for an outstanding football season and commend Coach Robb Akey for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Duane Nellis and Coach Robb Akey of the University of Idaho.